

DRAFT ONLY
NOT APPROVED FOR
INTRODUCTION

HOUSE BILL NO. _____

Alternative schools.

Sponsored by: HDRAFT

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to school finance; eliminating the
2 moratorium imposed upon alternative schools included within
3 a district's configuration of schools under the block grant
4 funding model, subject to specified conditions; addressing
5 educational space for alternative schools as specified;
6 granting rulemaking authority; and providing for an
7 effective date.

8

9 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

10

11 **Section 1.** W.S. 21-13-309(m)(v)(B) by creating a new
12 subparagraph (IV) is amended to read:

13

1 **21-13-309. Determination of amount to be included in**
2 **foundation program for each district.**

3
4 (m) In determining the amount to be included in the
5 foundation program for each district, the director shall:

6
7 (v) Based upon ADM computations and identified
8 school configurations within each district pursuant to
9 paragraph (iv) of this subsection, compute the foundation
10 program amount for each district as prescribed by the
11 education resource block grant model adopted by the Wyoming
12 legislature as defined under W.S. 21-13-101(a)(xiv), as
13 contained within the spreadsheets and accompanying reports
14 referenced under W.S. 21-13-101(a)(xvii), on file with the
15 secretary of state and maintained by the director pursuant
16 to W.S. 21-2-202(e). The following criteria shall be used
17 by the director in the administration of the education
18 resource block grant model:

19
20 (B) Alternative schools qualifying for
21 separate consideration under the education resource block
22 grant model may be established by a school district for
23 offering educational programs to students with educational

1 needs which the district finds are not appropriately met by
2 other schools in the district, excluding charter schools
3 established under W.S. 21-3-301 through 21-3-314.
4 Alternative schools included within a district's
5 configuration of schools identified under paragraph (iv) of
6 this subsection shall for purposes of the education
7 resource block grant model:

8
9 (IV) On and after July 1, 2014, and if
10 not qualifying under subdivision (I) of this subparagraph,
11 be approved by the director subject to the following:

12
13 (1) Completion of a formal
14 evaluation of the school district's at-risk programs to
15 ensure provision of a continuum of learning supports and
16 classroom interventions addressing the needs of at-risk
17 children within the district which is comprised of the
18 following:

19
20 a. Criteria for identifying
21 at-risk students in accordance with and subject to
22 research-based indicators;

23

1 b. Use of individual
2 learning plans for each identified at-risk student or an
3 equivalent school-wide plan that defines interventions,
4 programs and services required to address special needs; and
5 the plans ^{shall be} are continuously monitored by the district;

6
7 c. Use of quality learning
8 supports and classroom interventions based upon the special
9 needs of the student population served by the district and
10 the supports and interventions are supported by and based
11 upon research-based practices and strategies;

12
13 d. Data based predictors to
14 identify students at-risk of dropping out of school after
15 reaching the age of compulsory attendance pursuant to W.S.
16 21-4-102 and learning supports and classroom strategies to
17 address this student population.

18
19 (2) A formal evaluation is
20 conducted by the district not less than once every two (2)
21 years of the school's programs, comprised of the continuum
22 of learning supports and classroom interventions specified
23 under subdivision (IV)(1) of this subparagraph. The

1 evaluation shall measure the effectiveness of the school's
2 programs in meeting the needs of those student populations
3 attending the school. Formal evaluations conducted under
4 this subparagraph shall be reported to and approved by the
5 district board and reported to the director together with
6 action plans addressing necessary program improvements;

7
8 (3) Student achievement within
9 the school is reported annually by the district to the
10 director, as measured by quality indicators specified by
11 rule and regulation of the department which reflect the
12 components of the continuum of learning supports and
13 classroom interventions specified under subdivision (IV)(1)
14 of this subparagraph;

15
16 (4) Educational space for the
17 school is provided through facilities operated and
18 maintained by the district and approved by the school
19 facilities department as meeting statewide adequacy
20 standards. After two (2) evaluations by the director under
21 subdivision (IV)(3) of this subparagraph that demonstrate
22 academic progress or success of an alternative school's
23 educational program, the alternative school shall be

1 included in the district's five (5) year plan under W.S.
2 21-15-116 and the school's long term facility needs shall
3 be evaluated by the school facilities department.
4 Notwithstanding subparagraph (m)(vi)(C) of this section,
5 the school facilities department shall not approve any
6 district plan which includes educational space for the
7 alternative school within a separate facility unless the
8 district provides sufficient documentation and evidence
9 that the school cannot be collocated within a facility
10 containing educational space for another school with
11 similar grade configurations operated by the district.

12

13 **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2014.